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HEALTH ADVISORY 11/16/2009

BFHD H1N1 (swine flu) Update for November 16, 2009

Vaccine Update

To ensure access to H1N1 (swine flu) vaccine to those in our community who are in the high risk categories and do not have a healthcare provider offering the vaccine, small amounts of H1N1 vaccine have been delivered to 15 pharmacies in our area. A partial list of these pharmacies is available on our web site, www.bfhd.wa.gov. Additional sites will be added as information becomes available.

Pharmacies are asked to vaccinate only those in the risk categories set by CDC:

- Pregnant women
- Children 6 months through 18 years old
- Young adults 19 years through 24 years old
- People who live with or care for children less than 6 months old
- People age 25 - 64 years who have a medical condition that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications
- Health care workers

Individuals in the risk categories should contact the pharmacy prior to arrival, because:

- Different pharmacies vaccinate different ages
- Some pharmacies are vaccinating by appointment only,
- Others are offering walk-in clinics

Note: Pharmacies are allowed to charge a nominal administration fee.

Absentee rates

Local school absentee rates appear to be going down, with very few schools reporting a greater than 10 percent absentee rate.

This was anticipated, but we also expect there may be another wave of illness that could cause rates of reported illness to increase again. Surveillance activities with the schools will continue.